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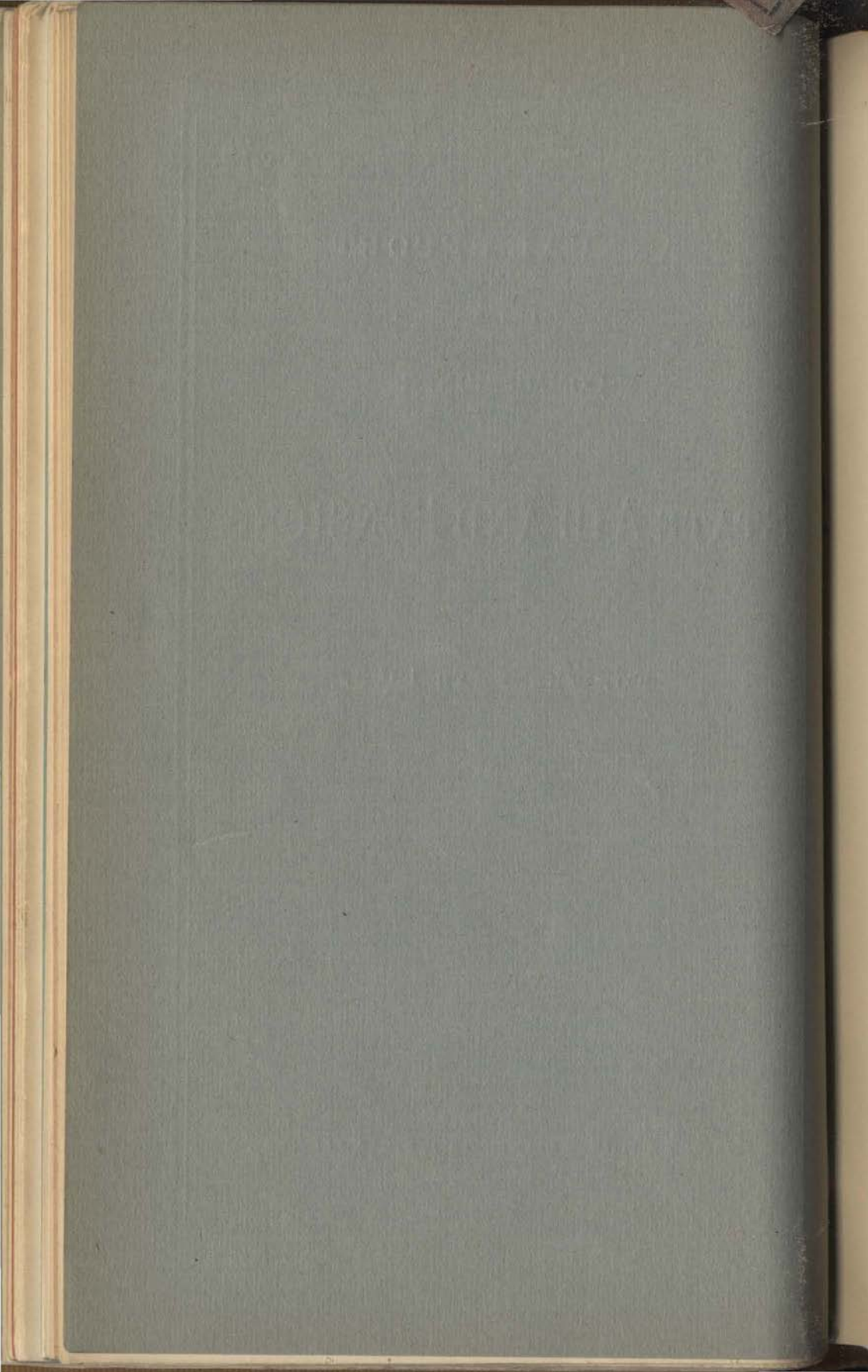
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No. 68

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
OF  
STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

FOR THE YEAR 1908.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 8, 1909.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

I have the honor to present herewith to your honorable bodies the annual report of the department of State Aid and Pensions, the part relating to State and military aid and burials being for the year 1907, and that relating to pensions covering the year 1908.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,

*Commissioner.*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

DATE OF THE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MAY 11, 1907

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. The report of the Board of Trustees will be submitted to the Board of Directors at their next meeting, and it is expected that a decision will be reached by that time.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS

President

## REPORT.

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### STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

The expenditures on account of State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers, their wives and widows, for the year 1907, were as follows:—

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war, . . .	\$778,784 76
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain, . .	5,677 50
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war, . . .	32,719 79
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain, . .	5,943 78
Expense for burial of indigent soldiers and dependents, .	33,529 17
Total for 1907, . . . . .	\$856,655 00

The above items of expense show an increase in 1907 over 1906 of about \$6,000, most of which was caused by the increase of burial cases. The State aid, by far the largest item of expense, has nearly reached the maximum, and steady decrease annually may now be looked for. Expenditures on account of military aid will also markedly decrease from this time forth, but expense for burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, for obvious reasons, will show some increase from year to year.

The total number of recipients for 1907, civil war, was 15,323, classified as follows:—

Pensioners, . . . . .	7,169
Wives, . . . . .	833
Widows, . . . . .	7,197
Widowed mothers, . . . . .	110
Dependent fathers, . . . . .	1
Army nurses, . . . . .	13
	15,323

Net decrease of recipients during the year, 206.



The total number of recipients for 1907, war with Spain, was 133, classified as follows:—

Pensioners,	33
Wives,	2
Widows,	32
Dependent mothers,	37
Dependent fathers,	4
Children,	25

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133

Total decrease during the year 1907, 6.

#### *Military Aid.*

Military aid to the amount of \$38,663.57 — an increase of \$234.31 over 1906 — was disbursed to 490 soldiers and sailors of the civil war, and to 98 soldiers and sailors of the war with Spain, making the total number aided under this chapter during the year 588, — a total decrease of 24 from the previous year.

The medical examinations required by the law were made by Surgeon-General William H. Devine, and his services were of great assistance to the commissioner in determining the physical ability of applicants to labor and become self-supporting.

*Burial Expenses of Indigent Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, their Wives, Widows and Dependent Mothers, and Army Nurses, under Chapter 381, Acts of 1904, and Chapter 354, Acts of 1907, which provides for a Compensation of \$2 to the Burial Agent for Each Person duly returned by him.*

There were buried, during the year 1907, 942 persons, at an expense of \$33,529.17. They are classified as follows:—

Civil war:—

Soldiers,	633
Widows,	196
Wives,	47
Mothers,	13
Army nurses,	2

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891



## Spanish war:—

Soldiers, . . . . .	48	
Widows, . . . . .	2	
Mothers, . . . . .	1	
	<hr/>	51
Total, . . . . .		942

An increase of 134 cases, and an increase in expenditure of \$5,321.23 over 1906.

*Total Payments of State Aid since 1861.*

The total payments by the Commonwealth for State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, including appropriations made by the General Court toward maintenance of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, from 1861 to the close of 1907, were . . . . .	\$32,728,130 09
State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1907, paid in 1908, . . . .	856,655 00
Special laws, . . . . .	988 00
Soldiers' Home, . . . . .	63,000 00
Soldiers' Home hospital, . . . . .	136,575 47
Total to Dec. 1, 1908, . . . . .	<hr/> \$33,785,348 56

The four agents of the department, three men and one woman, have done excellent work in visiting cities and towns and investigating the condition, needs, etc., of recipients of State and military aid, and adjusting questions arising under the burial act and appeals under the soldiers' relief law, —about 7,000 cases specifically examined during the year.

Dr. Henry Shaw, special agent for the adjusting of questions of settlement, etc., at the small salary of \$600 a year, should receive a salary commensurate with the important and valuable service rendered to the State. In view of his superior qualifications for the especial work of settling controversies over settlements and the adjusting of appealed cases under the soldiers' relief law, I respectfully recommend that Dr. Shaw be rated as a regular agent of the department, and salaried at \$1,300 a year.

I would also respectfully renew my recommendation of last year, that the two stenographers and typewriters now receiving \$840 per year be increased to not exceeding \$1,000 per year.

The provisions of law (chapter 381, Acts and Resolves of the General Court for 1904) authorizing payment of State and military aid will expire by limitation after Dec. 31, 1909, unless the present Legislature authorizes continuance.

It is increasingly evident that the aged and infirm veterans of the civil war and the disabled pensioned soldiers and sailors of the war with Spain will require continued assistance.

I earnestly request that the present law be continued, or that a new act be framed embodying recent amendments and such new provisions as may be thought advisable.

Deputy Commissioner Francis A. Bicknell, having immediate charge of pension and other claims against the United States government, furnishes the following details of business for 1908.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,

*Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions.*



## PENSION DEPARTMENT.

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Herewith is submitted a brief summary of the work performed in this office during the year 1908.

The legislation affecting our duties was an act passed April 19, 1908, entitled "An Act to increase the pension of widows, minor children, and so forth, of deceased soldiers and sailors of the late civil war, the war with Mexico, the various Indian wars, and so forth, and to grant a pension to certain widows of the deceased soldiers and sailors of the late civil war."

Prior to the passage of this act the act of June 27, 1890, debarred widows who were in receipt of an annual income exceeding \$250. This new act removed that restriction, and many such widows have availed themselves of this opportunity to present claims.

The Bureau of Pensions should receive the thanks of this department for the prompt attention given us and the favorable consideration and adjudication of our claims.

We have executed a very large number of vouchers for pensioners without expense to them.

The same clerical force has been employed as in the year 1907, and credit is due them for their faithful performance of duty.

The following is a detailed statement of the work for the year:—

1,758 claims filed, classified as follows:—

Soldiers' claims, under act of Feb 6, 1907, . . . . .	784
Soldiers (original), . . . . .	36
Soldiers (increased), . . . . .	79
Widows, . . . . .	578
Widows (accrued), . . . . .	41
Reimbursement, . . . . .	77
New pension certificates, . . . . .	57
Transfers, . . . . .	25

Restoration, . . . . .	5
Mothers, . . . . .	9
Fathers, . . . . .	1
Guardians, . . . . .	8
Wives (one-half pension), . . . . .	3
Wife without guardianship, . . . . .	1
Unendorsed pension checks, . . . . .	10
Pay and bounty, . . . . .	15
Certificates in lieu of discharge, . . . . .	7
Change of name on rolls, . . . . .	1
Removal of charge of desertion, . . . . .	1
Old claims, . . . . .	20
Total, . . . . .	1,758
Claims allowed, . . . . .	1,689
Claims rejected, . . . . .	165
Amount collected, . . . . .	\$73,217 69

F. A. BICKNELL,

*Deputy Commissioner, State Aid and Pensions.*